

What is claimed is:

5 1. A method for adjusting image brightness comprising the steps of effecting a computation on color image data represented by a color signal composed of at least three components to obtain pixel lightness components and adjusting brightness of an image represented by the color image data based on the lightness components, the method being characterized in further comprising a step of adjusting the brightness of the image represented by the color image data based on color saturation components of the pixels.

10 2. A method for adjusting image brightness according to claim 1, wherein the step of adjusting the brightness of the image represented by the color image data based on color saturation components of the pixels is effected by computing weighted lightness components of the pixels by weighting the lightness components of the pixels by the color saturation components of the pixels, computing mean values of the weighted lightness components, and adjusting the brightness by converting the color image data to make the mean values desired values.

15 3. A system for adjusting image brightness comprising an adjuster having adjustment means for effecting a computation on color image data represented by a color signal composed of at least three components to obtain pixel lightness components and adjusting brightness of an image represented by the color image data based on the lightness components, the system being

characterized in that the adjuster further comprises adjustment means for adjusting the brightness of the image represented by the color image data based on color saturation components of the pixels.

- 5        4. A system for adjusting image brightness according to claim 3, wherein the adjuster includes weighted lightness component computing means for computing weighted lightness components of the pixels by weighting the lightness components of the pixels by the color saturation components of the pixels, mean value computing means for computing mean values of the weighted lightness components, and conversion means for converting the color image data to make the mean values desired values.

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